

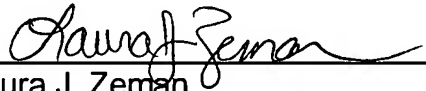
**REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted to include the foregoing reference that this application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/227,993 filed August 26, 2002 and entitled "Method and Apparatus for Separating Excavated Material" which claims priority to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/503,283 filed February 14, 2000; cancel claims 1-8, without prejudice or disclaimer, and to add new claims 22-27.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss the above in greater detail, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 4/13/04

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